REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 16, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1-26 have been rejected. Claims 1, 9 and 22 are independent claims from which claims 2-8, 10-21 and 23-26 respectively depend. While Applicant does not agree with the grounds for rejection, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicant has amended the independent claims to more particularly point out the invention, which renders the stated grounds for rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, define over the prior art. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed in paragraph [0043] – [0044] and elsewhere.

§101 Rejections

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been amended to overcome these rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1-8 are proper and request the withdrawal of the 101 rejections of these claims.

§102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by McConnell et al, (U.S. Patent No. 6,993,475 B1), hereinafter referred to as the 475 patent. It is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claims are allowable because they include features not shown in the cited reference. As the 475 patent does not disclose or suggest all of these novel features, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9 and 22 and their dependent claims are allowable. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 102 rejections of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and an early allowance is earnestly solicited.

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